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**Inventory for
Manuscript Collection
MS - 24**

Hathorn Family Papers

**1770 – 1880
Bulk: 1795-1845**

by
Elisabeth Meier
February 2018

1 ½ boxes
0.6 linear feet
Accession no. 72.188

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Abstract

Daniel Hathorn Family

Papers, 1770-1880

Bulk: 1795-1845

1 ½ boxes

Shipbuilding and farming family of Woolwich, Maine.

This collection contains accounts, bills, receipts, promissory notes, and correspondence from several generations of the Hathorn family of Woolwich, Maine. The bulk of the collection relates to Daniel Hathorn (1769-1859) and his sons Gould (1798-1862), Gowing (1806-1875), and Hartley (1808-1888). It covers the family's overlapping pursuits of farming, saw- and shingle milling, shipbuilding, and ship management in the early nineteenth century.

Gift of Richard & Pearl Chadbourne.

MS-024. Accession #72.188.

Finding aid (folder level control) in repository.

Added entries—persons:

Carlton, Nancy White (born 1820)

Hathorn, Albert (1811-1882)

Hathorn, Daniel (1769-1859)

Hathorn family

Hathorn, Gould (1798-1862)

Hathorn, Gowing (Going) (1806-1875)

Hathorn, Hartley (1808-1888)

White family

White, Jasper (born 1835)

Added entries—corporate bodies (including vessels):

Forest (two-mast schooner)

Ganges (two-mast schooner)

Gold Hunter (brig)

Halcyon (bark)

Mary Jane (two-mast schooner)

Swan (schooner)

Added entries—key terms:

Agriculture

Frontier and pioneer life

Furniture

Labor

Lumber

Masts and rigging

Sawmills

Schooners

Ship timber

Shipbuilding

Ships – Maintenance and repair

Woolwich (Me.)

Acquisition

This collection was given to the museum by Pearl E. (Hathorn) Chadbourne, the great-granddaughter of Hartley Hathorn, in 1972. It was found in the attic of the “old Hathorn house” in Woolwich, where Pearl and Richard Chadbourne lived.

Restrictions

There are no restrictions on this collection.

Physical Condition

Most of the documents in this collection are in moderately poor condition. Many are very fragile. The papers suffer, singly or in combination, from water damage, mold, faded ink, losses to mice, tears, and splits along the folds.

Processing Notes

Initial processing of this collection was done by Valerie A. Thomas as graduate coursework in 1983.

Historical Note

The Hathorn family arrived in Woolwich sometime around 1766, when John Hathorn (1744-1815) moved to the town with his new bride, Tabitha Gowing (1737-1826) from Wilmington, Massachusetts. The couple’s six children were all born and raised in Woolwich. For a more complete genealogy of this and succeeding generations, see Appendix A.

John Hathorn’s second son, Daniel (1769-1859) lived his entire life in Woolwich. Nominally a farmer, he was involved in many aspects of the rural and coastal economy. He owned a sawmill, surveyed and sold ship- and house timber, and maintained the town roads. In the 1820s, Daniel Hathorn made his first recorded foray into the maritime world by purchasing shares in the Dresden, Maine-built schooner *Swan*. By the 1830s, he had started his own small shipyard near Day’s Ferry, Woolwich.

Daniel Hathorn married Hannah Gould in 1796. They had nine children. As his sons grew older, they joined Daniel Hathorn in various aspects of the family business.

Gould Hathorn (1798-1866) was most closely involved with his father’s maritime ventures. He took an active, perhaps leading, role in building, investing in, and managing the family’s ships, and is listed as the master builder for the *Gold Hunter* (built 1832), *Ganges* (1833), *Forest* (1835), *Mary Jane* (1846), and *Forrester* (1848). However, he apparently abandoned shipbuilding sometime around 1850, and spent the rest of his life as a merchant and grocer in Woolwich.

Albert Hathorn (1811-1882) likely learned the shipbuilding trade from his father and brother, constructing at least two vessels under his own name in Woolwich in the 1850s. At the end of the decade, Albert Hathorn moved across the river to Bath to build ships on a larger scale. In 1864, he established his own shipyard near Spring Street in the south end of town. He died a prominent and wealthy citizen of Bath.

Rather than follow his brothers to the shipyard, Gowing (or Going) Hathorn (1806-1875) entered the timber trade. He moved to Pittsfield, Maine, in the 1830s and established a successful lumber business there.

Hartley Hathorn (1808-1888) became a farmer. He raised eleven children between two wives: Mary Dennett (1809-1849) and Elizabeth (Betsey) White (1822-1913). Hartley Hathorn lived his entire life in Woolwich, but his White in-laws moved west to Minnesota Territory in the early 1850s. The Hathorns provided them with loans and invested in western lands, in addition to maintaining an active personal correspondence with these relatives on the frontier.

Scope and Content Note

The bulk of this collection relates to the farming, lumbering, and maritime activities of Daniel Hathorn and his sons in Woolwich in the early nineteenth century. It primarily consists of bills and receipts, promissory notes, and other financial documents; the correspondence is mostly personal.

The Hathorn family's maritime activities are represented by documents related to the construction and /or maintenance of the *Forest* (two-mast schooner), *Ganges* (two-mast schooner), *Gold Hunter* (brig), *Mary Jane* (two-mast schooner), and *Swan* (two-mast schooner). These include itemized lists of timber needed for a 75 foot vessel, specifications for the *Forest*, and receipts for labor, particularly for specialized trades like spar-making, rigging, and caulking. Documentation of the vessels' sailing careers is scantier and often related to local expenses like wharfage. There is a fragment of a ship's log dated 1831, but the vessel is unidentified.

The Hathorn's lumbering and agricultural activities are represented by receipts for labor, bills for tools and other items repaired at the mill and on the farm, certificates for timber surveys, and accounts for produce sold. Some of these mention ship timber sold to buyers outside the family. A substantial collection of promissory notes further outlines the dense financial, personal, and familial obligations that supported the Hathorn concerns in Woolwich. The collection also contains family tax receipts, instructions for road surveying and maintenance, accounts for dressing cloth, and detailed bills for furniture and other domestic goods.

Almost all of the correspondence falls into two categories: letters from Pittsfield, Maine, where various family members followed Gowing Hathorn, or letters from Betsey (White) Hathorn's relatives in Minnesota Territory. The latter include accounts of frontier life and discuss the benefits of moving west. There is also a letter from Jasper White detailing his business in New Orleans circa 1860, a letter to Martha Electra Hathorn offering her a job in the weaving room of a Brunswick mill, and an unsigned essay on the "Curiosities of Science" written aboard the bark *Halcyon*.

Box and Folder List

I. Shipping Papers

Box	Folder	
1	1	<i>Forest</i> (two-mast schooner), 1834-1836
	2	<i>Ganges</i> (two-mast schooner), 1835-1837
	3	<i>Gold Hunter</i> (brig), 1832-1833 and undated
	4	<i>Mary Jane</i> (two-mast schooner), 1854-1859
	5	<i>Swan</i> (two-mast schooner), accounts, 1823-1824
	6	<i>Swan</i> (two-mast schooner), bills and receipts, 1821-1825
	7	<i>Swan</i> (two-mast schooner), labor, 1821-1825 and undated
	8	Unidentified vessels, construction and operation, 1822-1841
	9	Partial logbook, April 1831 – January 1832

II. General Business and Financial Papers

10	John Hathorn, 1795
11	Daniel Hathorn, 1791-1805
12	1806-1812
13	1813-1818
14	1819-1823
15	1824-1826
16	1827-1828
17	1829-1833
18	1834-1835
19	1836-1841
20	1842-1858
21	Undated
22	Land and estate papers
23	Tabitha Hathorn, 1814, 1817
24	Mary Hathorn and Nancy Hathorn, 1829-1835
25	Gould Hathorn, 1819-1848
26	Gowing Hathorn, 1825-1856
27	Hartley Hathorn, 1830-1875
28	Elizabeth (White) Hathorn, 1866, 1870
29	Albert Hathorn, 1830-1841
30	Adoniram Hathorn, 1859-1853
31	Bills and receipts, unidentified, 1803-1875 and undated
32	Promissory notes and receipts, signed by other families, 1800-1856
33	Promissory notes and receipts, unidentified, 1797-1868 and undated
34	Tax receipts, Hathorn family and others, 1791-1870
35	Road maintenance, Woolwich, 1800-1868
36	Working papers and calculations

III. Correspondence

Box	Folder	
2	1	Daniel Hathorn, 1805-1839

- Hartley Hathorn and family
- 2 Gowing Hathorn, 1860, 1872
 - 3 Mary (Stinson) White, 1856 and undated
 - 4 Nancy (White) Carlton and Robert Carlton, 1856-1861 and undated
 - 5 Lucy Carlton, 1857-1860
 - 6 Andrew Jackson White, 1855-1856
 - 7 Ann (Hathorn) White, undated
 - 8 Jasper M. White, 1838-1865
 - 9 Agnes C. (Plummer) White, 1868-1873 and undated
 - 10 Betsey Plummer, 1865 and undated
 - 11 Ellen Hathorn, 1870 and undated
 - 12 Martha Electra Hathorn, 1878-1880
 - 13 Fragments and unidentified letters

IV. Miscellaneous

- 14 "Curiosities of Science," *Halcyon* (bark)
- 15 "Directions for Playing the Delightful Game 'Parcheesi,'" 1869

Appendix A

Hathorn Family Genealogy

John Hathorn (1744-1815)

Born in Wilmington, MA; moved to Woolwich, ME

Married Tabitha Gowing (1737-1826) in 1766

Children:

John (b. 1767)

Daniel (1769-1859)

Esther (b. 1771)

Johannah (b. 1773)

Samuel (b. 1776)

Seth (b. 1780)

Daniel Hathorn (1769-1859)

Farmer & Shipbuilder, Woolwich

Married Hannah Gould in 1796

Children:

Gould (1798-1862)

Joanna (b. 1802)

Nancy (b. 1804)

Gowing (Going, Gowen) (1806-1875)

Hartley (1808-1888)

Albert (1811-1882)

Mary (b. 1814)

Sophia (b. 1817)

Adoniram (1819-1853), scribner

Gould Hathorn (1798-1862)

Shipbuilder and merchant, Woolwich

Married Sarah Hodgkins in 1825

Children:

Francis M. (Frank) (1826-1910)

Clarissa (b. 1827)

Rachel (b. 1829)

Harriet (b. 1833)

Sarah (b. 1835)

Joseph W. (b. 1837), sailor

Gowing Hathorn (1806-1875)

Lumberman, Pittsfield, ME

Married Mary W. Elliot in 1838

Children:

William Laforest (1844-1873)

Florence (Floreanna) (b. 1848)

Hartley Hathorn (1808-1888)

Farmer, Woolwich

Married Mary Dennett (1809-1849)

Children:

Ann (b. 1833), m. Freeman White

Hannah (b. 1835)

Nancy (b. 1838)

Edwin (b. 1840)

Elizabeth (b. 1842)

Catharine (b. 1845)

c. 1850, m. Elizabeth White (1822-1913)

Children:

Daniel (b. 1853)

Adoniram (b. 1855)

Luetta (b. 1859)

Albert (b. 1860)

Martha Electra (b. 1863)

Albert Hathorn (1811-1882)

Shipbuilder, Bath

Married Mary Augusta Hathorn (1815-1900)
in 1844

Children:

Ellen Augusta (b. 1845)

Flora Estelle (b. 1848)

Everett Melville (b. 1850)

Immediate family of Elizabeth (White) Hathorn

Parents: Francis White & Sarah Lyman

Dresden, Maine

Children:

Thomas (b. 1817), married Mary W. Stinson

Nancy (b. 1820), married Robert Carleton

Children: Francis, Lucy, Daniel, Issabel

Elizabeth (Betsey) (1822-1913), married Hartley Hathorn

Andrew Jackson (b. 1824)

Franklin (b. 1827)

Freeman (b. 1832), married Ann Hathorn

Jasper (b. 1835), married Agnes C. Plummer